GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2015
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2001
LOW QUALITY OF VANASPATI VEGETABLE OIL
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether out 2454 samples of Vanaspati vegetable oil drawn from manufacturing units in the country during 2000-2001, 78 samples were not found conforming to the standards of quality;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of manufacturers to whom show cause notice were issued and number out of them against whom action was initiated;

(d) whether the study undertaken by Nutritional Monitoring Bureau indicated that the Vitamin A deficiency in India is below WHO cut-off level of 0.5 per cent;

(e) if so, whether some samples failed in respect of melting point and deficiency of vitamin A; and

(f) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (S SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a),(b)&(c): Yes, Sir. The details with regard to the number of units against whom action has been initiated are as under:-

No. of Samples Failed	No. of Units Concerned	Action Initiated
41	6	Referred to the concerned State Governments for Prosecution.
28	15	Warning issued to the units concerned to be careful in future.
3	1	Samples of new applicant collected for analysis from trial production and accordingly advised to take corrective measures.
6	1	Based on the reply from the unit, detailed report has been sought from the officer concerned.
78	23	

(d): The surveys carried out by the National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB) in 1996-1997 in rural areas in 8 States Viz. Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Orissa indicate that the prevalence of Bitot Spots, an accepted objective sign of Vitamin A deficiency is 0.8% in the preschool children.

(e)&(f): Yes, Sir. The action has been initiated against the defaulting Units, as mentioned in reply to part (a),(b) and (c).